

In the specification

On page 1, line 1, delete the heading "SPECIFICATION".

On page 1, line 6, delete the heading "TECHNICAL FIELD" and replace it with the following:

"BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION"

On page 1, line 23, delete the heading "BACKGROUND ART".

On page 4, line 30, delete the heading "DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION" and replace it with the following:

"SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION"

On page 13, line 23, delete the heading "BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION" and replace it with the following:

"DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS"

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 7 as follows:

a

Accordingly, since each filament 41a is twisted equally, each filament 41a supports an external force equally. Therefore, it is not necessary to provide the strand 41 with more than an expected level of strength. The strand 41 is provided with a predetermined strength against external force. Thus, the weight of a resulting tire is reduced. The rubber membrane coated strand 59, in which the filaments 41a of the strand 41 and the rubber are adequately adhered, is obtained. Also, the entire strand 41 is coated with the rubber membrane layer 58 after each filament 41a is coated with the rubber layer 53, which leaves no space between the filaments. Thus, as shown in Figures 12(a)-12(d), there is no space between the filaments 41a of the strand 41. Accordingly, water does not penetrate the strand 41. Thus, the invention provides an improved corrosion-resistant rubber coated strand. Further, since the filaments 41a are separated by the rubber layer 53, the strand absorbs vibration. The strand also suppresses frictional heating